

- Apothecary Edward Stabler moved his shop into a newly constructed building at 107 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia, in 1805 and later expanded his business into the adjacent building (105 S. Fairfax Street). Like many nineteenth-century drug store owners, Edward Stabler and his successors engaged not only in retail pharmacy, but also in wholesale drug sales and the production of proprietary medicines. The business was continuously run by the family until 1933, when the Leadbeater Drug Corporation, run by Edward Stabler's great-grandsons, filed for bankruptcy and closed the business.
- The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop is nationally significant in the history of pharmacy in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, particularly the evolution of drug stores and the changing role of pharmacists. The history of this apothecary shop and its buildings illustrates how drug stores and pharmacists were affected by important



developments in the history of pharmacy, such as professionalization, state licensing regulations, the rise of patent medicines, the development of industrial drug research and manufacturing, and early federal drug laws.

**Integrity:**

- The two buildings of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop retain a high degree of integrity, particularly with regard to interior elements, which are unique to pharmacies. The 1851 interior of the main retail pharmacy remains intact and the property contains rare examples of well-preserved work and storage spaces associated with wholesale pharmacy and small-scale drug manufacturing.
- Modifications necessary to the buildings' current function as a museum are concentrated in areas that retain few historic interior features associated with the pharmacy and wholesale drug business.
- The façade was restored between 1934 and 1938 by Thomas T. Waterman. The Colonial Revival storefronts on both buildings are consistent with the overall feeling of nineteenth-century commercial buildings. Waterman's design is conjectural, but he incorporated materials from the early nineteenth-century, Federal-style storefronts of these and other commercial buildings owned by the Stabler and Leadbeater families. Elements of the Italianate storefronts that replaced the original Federal-style storefronts, and were themselves replaced by Waterman, remain in the museum's collection.

**Owner of Property:** City of Alexandria, Virginia

**Acreage of Property:** Less than one acre.

**Origins of Nomination:** The Office of Historic Alexandria, the municipal department that administers the property and operates the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, initiated the effort to designate the property as a National Historic Landmark.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- National Historic Landmark designation of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop would bring public attention to an area of United States history that has not been fully recognized in the NHL Program—the evolution of the twentieth-century drug store from the pharmacy of the nineteenth century. Other National Historic Landmarks related to the history of pharmacy in the United States are associated with the proprietary drug industry and pharmaceutical research.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None is known.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of September 9, 2020):**

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:**

- Add information about the Stabler family and abolitionism.
- Add information about the Waterman façade restoration, especially the display windows.

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop in Alexandria, Virginia, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**